

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on August 9, 2006.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 1-5 are cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 8-11 correspond to former claims 2-5, but depend from allowed claim 6. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment -- in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal -- is earnestly solicited. With this Amendment, claims 6-11 are pending in the application.

Prior art rejections

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US published application 2004/0048192 A1 to Shima et al. (Shima) or by US patent 6,800,419 B2 to Soyano et al. (Soyano). Office Action, pages 2-4. These rejections are obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-5. It is noted that claim 6 -- the sole independent claim currently presented in this application -- has been indicated to be allowable.

Contact information


If there are any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is again respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO-1449 that was filed herein on January 5, 2005.

Dated: December 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
RG Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant